

ABSTRACT

Methods are provided that are useful in assaying  
compounds for cognitive enhancing properties, anxiolytic  
properties, hypnotic properties, or antidepressant  
5 properties. These methods involve determining the *in vitro*  
efficacy and EC<sub>50</sub> of the compounds at defined series of  
cloned GABA<sub>A</sub> subtype receptors composed of specific variants  
of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  subunits in order to develop an activity  
10 profile for each compound. Optionally, the binding  
affinities of the compounds at GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors are also  
determined. As an additional step the *in vivo* effects of the  
compounds may be tested in animal models

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